

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 /070 W

----- 104567

R 141155Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3494

INFO USINT BAGHDAD IRAQ

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAIR, BA

SUBJECT : SECURITY AT BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF : STATE 212490

1. CHARGE HAD A LONG DISCUSSION SEPT. 14 WITH THE HEAD OF CIVIL AVIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN (TITLE AND NAME: ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY FOR CIVIL AVIATION, SHAIKH ISA BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA) ABOUT A VARIETY OF CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS. SHAIKH ISA STATED THAT THE GOB, AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, IS ACUTELY AWARE OF AND DETERMINED TO HAVE TIGHT SECURITY AT ITS REGIONALLY IMPORTANT BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. HE MADE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES COULD ONLY DO SO MUCH WITHOUT THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF THE AIRLINES. THERE ARE TWO, HE SAID, WHO USE BAHRAIN'S AIRPORT REGULARLY WHO ARE NOT WELL-DISPOSED TO TIGHTENED SECURITY. THESE ARE IRAQI AND KUWAIT AIRWAYS. IRAQIS ARE DIFFICULT, HE SAID IN CONFIDENCE, "BECAUSE THEIR POLICY IS TO PROTECT PALESTINIANS". KUWAITIS ARE A PROBLEM "BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL SMUGGLING LIQUOR INTO KUWAIT IN THEIR CARRY-ON LUGGAGE" (KUWAIT IS DRY) AND DON'T WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED BY PUBLIC EXPOSURE.

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2. ALL OTHER AIRLINES WHICH USE BAHRAIN, HE SAID, ARE SUPPORTIVE

OF SECURITY REGULATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS.

3. AT THE BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRANSIT LOUNGE IT IS REGULARLY THE CASE THAT UNSCREENED PERSONS MINGLE WITH SCREENED PASSENGERS (PARA 3, REFTEL). THE TRANSIT LOUNGE AND THE WAITING LOUNGE FOR THOSE ABOUT TO BOARD ARE ONE AND THE SAME. THIS SITUATION WILL BE MODIFIED AFTER ABOUT NINE MONTHS, ACCORDING TO SHAIKH ISA, WHEN THE EXPANSION OF THE AIRPORT IS COMPLETED. EVEN THEN, HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT RUSH HOURS, TO TOTALLY SEGREGATE THE TWO GROUPS.

4. AS FOR THE FAA SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM (PARA 4, REFTEL), GOB WILL TAKE NOTE OF IT AND BE IN FURTHER CONTACT AS AND WHEN IT FEELS THE NEED TO SEND STAFF FOR SUCH TRAINING.
BURLEIGH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AIRPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAMA01381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760346-1118
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760963/aaaacbsk.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 212490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY AT BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TAGS: EAIR, BA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006